

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AID-05 /062 W

-----101781 160443Z /11

R 151150Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1835

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EAID, CT, KN

SUBJ: VISIT NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION

REF: BANGUI 1691

1. SUMMARY: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION LED BY FINANCE MINISTER KIM KYONG-YON ENDED ONE MONTH VISIT TO CAE ON AUGUST 12. FINAL COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR KOREANS TO PREPARE FEASIBILITY STUDIES ONLY ON FOUR RELATIVELY MODEST PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER KIM AND FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION ENDED WORKING VISIT TO CAE AUGUST 12. VISIT OCCURRED AS FOLLOW-UP TO EMPEROR BOKASSA'S APRIL 1978 VISIT TO PYONGYANG, AND CAE/NORTH KOREAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACCORDS SIGNED THERE MAY 2 BY BOKASSA AND KIM IL-SUNG. DURING CAE VISIT DELEGATION CONDUCTED WORKING SESSIONS WITH CAE AUTHORITIES, PRIMARILY FROM MINISTRY OF PLAN, AND MADE ON-SITE INSPECTIONS OF PROJECT AREAS PROPOSED BY CAE. DELEGATION ALSO FETED BY GOCAE AND INCLUDED IN VARIOUS CEREMONIAL AFFAIRS INVOLVING RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

3. FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MINISTER KIM AND GOCAE MINPLAN LEBOUDER WAS WARM IN TONE, ALTHOUGH IT AVOIDED EXCESSES OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION WHICH CHARACTERIZED END OF BOKASSA'S
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PYONGYANG VISIT. SPECIFIC PROJECTS CITED FOR WHICH NORTH KOREANS WILL PREPARE FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE: A) CERAMICS FACTORY, B) LUMBER MILL, C) 500 HECTARE RICE PROJECT AND D) SOAP MANUFACTURING PLANT. NO RPT NO DETAILS GIVEN ON PROPOSED PROJECT SITES.

4. THIS MODEST LIST IS NET RESULT OF FOUR AND ONE HALF WEEKS

OF HORSE TRADING. POST BELIEVES GOCAE MUST BE SOMEWHAT DISAP-
POINTED THAT NOTHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL OR EVEN PROMISES FOR
SAME EMERGED. OF INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS ONGOING OPPORTUNITY
FOR FURTHER VISITS, CONTACTS AND IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL AFFORDED
NORTH KOREANS AS RESULT OF THIS AGREEMENT. LIKELIHOOD OF ALL
THESE PROJECTS EVER REACHING FRUITION APPEARS UNCERTAIN,
ALTHOUGH SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HERE SPECULATES THAT RICE
PROJECT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED SOON AS ITS CAPITAL INVESTMENT
REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE MINIMAL. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME
SPECULATION THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE ASKED TO PREPARE FEASIB-
ILITY STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW IMPERIAL COURT AT BERENGO,
POST HAS NO INDICATION OF NORTH KOREAN AGREEMENT OR CONCURRENCE.
FAIRCHILD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGUI01835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780334-0912
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780861/aaaabyph.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a302f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGUI 1691
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1731113
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION
TAGS: PGOV, EAID, CT, KN, (KIM KYONG-YON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a302f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014